

**Town of Hamilton  
Community Preservation Committee  
October 14, 2010 Minutes**

**Attendees**

The meeting was held in the Memorial Room of Town Hall with the following Committee members in attendance: Tom Catalano, Jeff Stinson, Ray Whipple, Leigh Keyser, Jay Butler, Peter Dana, Ben Ricker and Peter Britton. Christine Berry as CPC Coordinator was also present. With a quorum present the meeting was called to order.

**Acceptance of minutes from September 9<sup>th</sup> CPC meeting**

The minutes from the September 9<sup>th</sup> CPC meeting were accepted.

**Special Town Meeting Preparation**

Christine circulated a draft powerpoint presentation for the Donovan acquisition for Town Meeting seeking feedback from the Committee. It was recommended that we spell out what the project costs are specifically. Donna Brewer, Town Counsel, advised that \$30,000 in project costs would be sufficient. The Recreation Board is not preparing their own presentation, but Christine will run the presentation by them. Both Peter Gourdeau and Steve Ozahowski are prepared to speak. The Recreation Board will have a speaker as well. Christine will explore with the Bruce Ramsey the possibility of having the speakers be allowed to speak before the floor is opened up to questions. The CPC expressed concern that the discussion not get dragged on. Tom will be prepared to speak to the CPA fund and the available reserves. The presentation should highlight that this is Hamilton's first CPA acquisition and that we are conserving our reserves. Both the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee have voted to recommend this project at Town Meeting.

Tom Catalano inquired whether any abutter concerns had been addressed. A Clark family member may have expressed concerns. Peter Dana suggested that the Recreation Board conduct outreach to the abutters in advance of Town Meeting. Ray Whipple noted that the map currently shows "proposed" parking. The grant application required that we show proposed parking. The property has existing parking; there is nothing more formal required. Older children play soccer there and parking is not an issue. The property does have an easement to Sagamore Street, which is how the appraised value was determined. This is an issue that should be thoroughly checked.

Ray inquired whether the property has to be named after the Donovan family. Christine reported that that stipulation is included in the Option Agreement with Greenbelt.

Christine will also circulate a draft press release tomorrow that can be included in the Chronicle. The press release will also offer a site walk for any members of the public who wish to tour the property prior to Town Meeting. Christine will work with David Santomenna to confirm the Donovan's are comfortable with the site visit taking place. The CPC scheduled the site visit for October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30am. Christine will attend and will see if any Recreation Board members can join as well.

**Reschedule Next CPC Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting falls on November 11<sup>th</sup>, which is Veteran's Day. The CPC voted to reschedule the meeting for November 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Hamilton Trails Discussion**

Christine and Peter Dana gave an update on the discussion of Hamilton trails that occurred at the last Board of Selectmen meeting. The discussion focused on threats that the trail system in Hamilton faces such as lack of permanent protection, trails being blocked, inconsistent permitted uses, etc. Essex County Trails Association was not able to attend the meeting due to their own meeting being previously scheduled. At the Board of Selectmen meeting, Jennifer Scuteri asked if the CPC could host a meeting to brainstorm ideas to coordinate the use of and protection of trails. The CPC thought that coordinating such a meeting might be overstepping their direction. The CPC has typically acted as the judges, or evaluators of projects and have not been advocates of projects. The CPC asked if we were overstepping our direction. The CPC has typically had projects come to them and it has not been their position to be involved in that way.

**Update of Community Preservation Plan**

Christine inquired whether the CPC might want to take a fresh look at the Community Preservation Plan that was drafted in September 2008. Christine will make any obvious updates and re-circulate to the Committee.

**Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm.